competition arising from internationalization of the economy. Larger size also entails better management of risk.

(c) It is too early to assess the role of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in this regard. However, there is no change in the existing limit stipulated in the relevant banking statutes regarding flow of FDI in the public sector banks.

Licence to open branches of foreign banks

2838. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give permission to new foreign banks to open branches in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many such foreign banks have shown interest to open branches in the country; and

(d) what are the guidelines for giving such permissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a), (b) and (d) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank has issued a press release on February 28, 2005, in consultation with Government of India, indicating a 'Roadmap for Foreign Banks Presence in India' which contains guidelines for Bank branches of foreign banks in India. These guidelines can be seen in RBI website *www. rbi.org.in.*

(c) Reserve Bank of India has received applications from four foreign banks as on 15th April, 2005 for maiden presence/upgradation in India. These proposals are considered for approval in the meetings of Inter Departmental Committee in the Ministry of Finance and sometimes through circulation of the proposals also.

Kisan Credit Cards

2839. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs);